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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Urs Welz-Biermann et al.

Examiner: Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha

Serial No.: 10/511,554

Group Art Unit: 1621

Filed: October 18, 2004

Title: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PERFLUORALKYLPHOSPHINES
AND THE USES THEREOF AS PERFLUORALKYLATING REACTANTS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

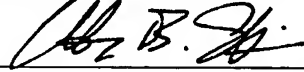
In response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 20, 2006, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-8, 10 and 11, drawn to the process for the preparation of perfluoroalkylphosphines. Reconsideration of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that there is absolutely zero additional burden on the examiner to examine the claims of Group II, inasmuch as applicants have previously received an office action on the merits of these claims. See the office action of May 24, 2006. In such a situation where there is no additional burden upon the examiner to examine multiple groups of claims, the M.P.E.P. mandates that such claims be kept together in a single application. See M.P.E.P. §803. Thus withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

It is thus respectfully submitted that all the claims are in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. Should the examiner have any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due with this response, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



Harry B. Shubin, Reg. No. 32,004
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Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-2930

Date: November 20, 2006

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